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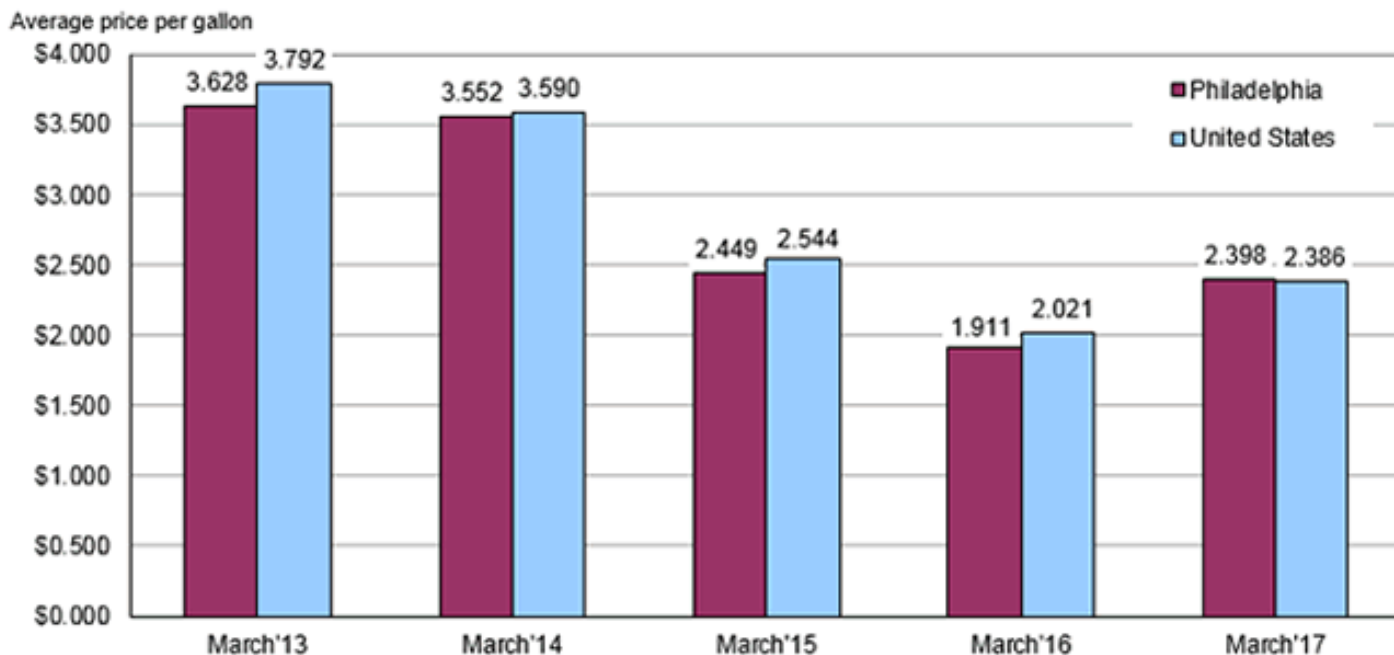
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Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City – March 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.398 a gallon in the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City area in March 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were up 25.5 percent from last March when they averaged \$1.911 per gallon. Philadelphia area households paid an average of 15.0 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in March 2017, 4.5 percent lower than the 15.7 cents paid in March 2016. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.063 per therm in March was 6.0 percent higher than its price of \$1.003 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.398 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was close to the national average of \$2.386 a gallon in March 2017. Gasoline prices paid by Philadelphia-area consumers were below the national average in March for the previous four years, ranging from 1.1 percent to 5.4 percent lower. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, March 2013–March 2017

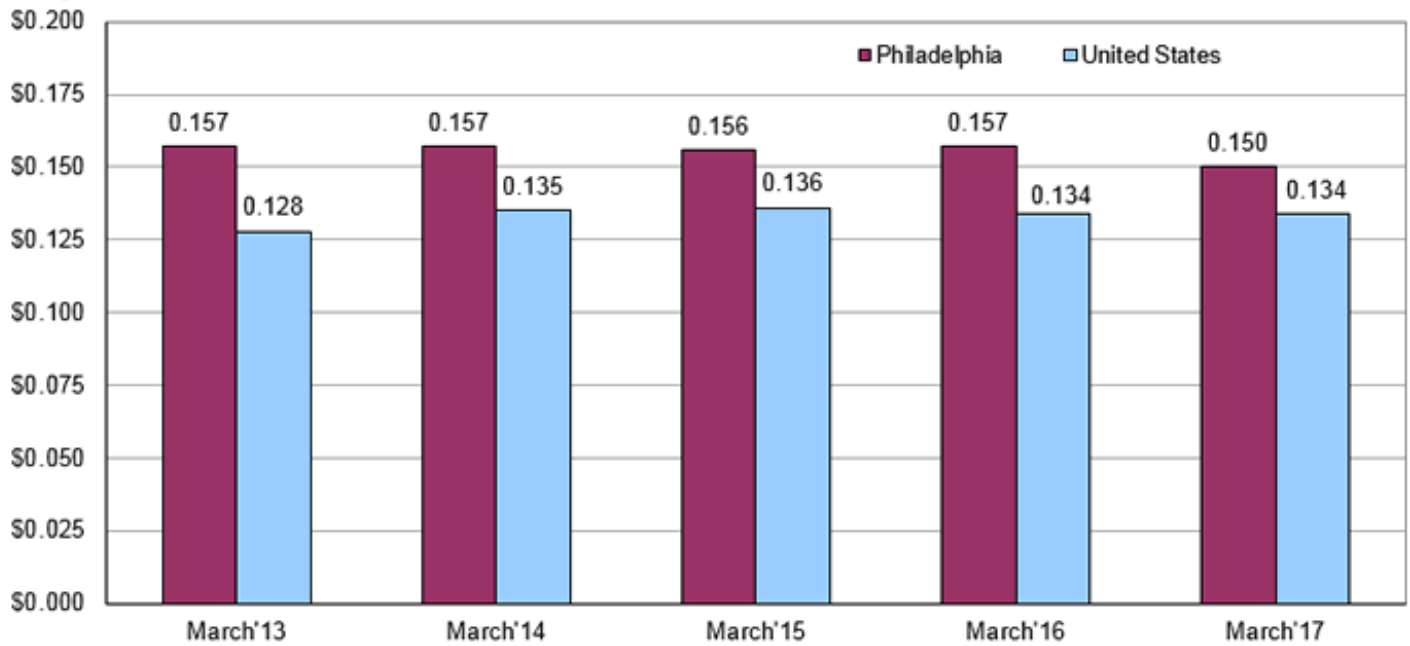


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.0 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in March 2017 was 11.9 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.4 cents per kWh. Last March, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 17.2 percent higher than the nation. From 2013 to 2015, prices paid by Philadelphia area consumers for electricity in March exceeded the U.S. average by 14.7 percent or more. (See [chart 2](#).)

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, March 2013–March 2017

Average price per kilowatt-hour

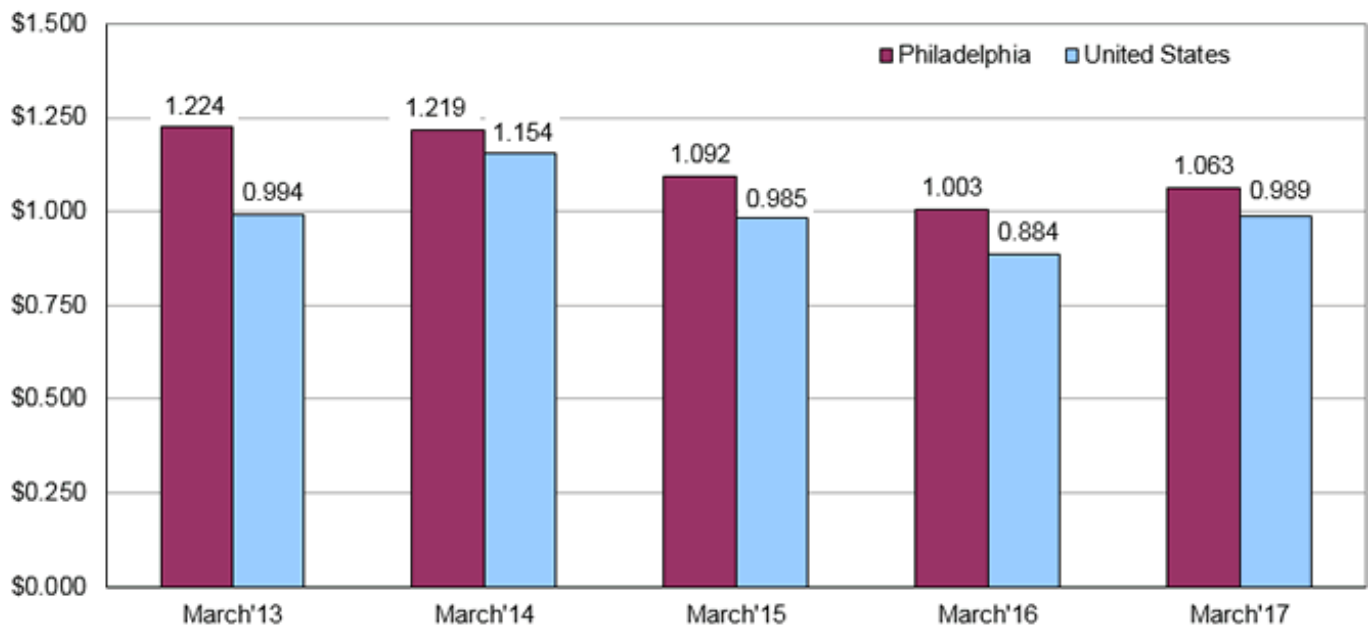


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.063 per therm in March 2017, 7.5 percent higher than the national average of \$0.989 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were above the national average in March for the previous four years, ranging from 5.6 percent to 23.1 percent higher. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, March 2013–March 2017

Average price per therm



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Consumer Price Index for April 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, May 12, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

The **Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Philadelphia area, March 2016-March 2017, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States
2016						
March	\$1.911	\$2.021	\$0.157	\$0.134	\$1.003	\$0.884
April	2.175	2.196	0.156	0.134	0.997	0.879
May	2.341	2.324	0.155	0.133	0.991	0.877
June	2.338	2.422	0.157	0.138	0.992	0.891
July	2.207	2.287	0.158	0.139	0.993	0.931
August	2.146	2.218	0.157	0.139	0.993	0.943
September	2.220	2.269	0.158	0.139	1.000	0.954
October	2.246	2.304	0.153	0.134	0.995	0.961
November	2.308	2.246	0.152	0.131	1.002	0.970
December	2.394	2.289	0.151	0.133	1.013	0.972
2017						
January	2.562	2.409	0.152	0.134	1.006	1.000
February	2.463	2.360	0.151	0.135	1.006	1.003
March	2.398	2.386	0.150	0.134	1.063	0.989